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NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

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August 21, 2015

Ms. Audrey Rowe
Administrator
Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
3101 Park Center Drive
Alexandria, Virginia 22302

Dear Administrator Rowe:

Thank you and Regional Administrator Mendoza for the very prompt and positive response to the August 9 request for Emergency Food Assistance from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and to my August 11 supporting letter.

Mr. Mendoza's authorizations for expenditure of \$3.5 million of FY15 Nutritional Assistance Program block grant carryover funds and for implementation of the emergency food assistance provisions of the Manual of Operations—including allowing participation of those individuals with gross incomes up to four times the normal NAP eligibility standards—will be critical for the recovery of the many households affected by Typhoon Soudelor. I am also appreciative of his decision to send staff from Region IX to assist the local recovery effort in the Marianas.

Although the congressional office is not involved in the actual certification of eligibility and cannot predict the number of households that will apply, it is conceivable that more funding could be necessary to meet the full need for assistance. To be prepared, I would like to ask now whether the Food and Nutrition Service would consider this possible additional need and be open to exercising reprogramming authority, as Secretary Vilsack did in 2009 to give the Commonwealth the same 13.6 percent increase provided nationally under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and then, again, in 2011 with another \$1 million to address the increased demand for food assistance in the Northern Marianas during the economic downturn of that time.

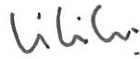
Beyond the NAP grant, I would like to take this opportunity also to ask that your office take stock of other forms of food assistance under your authority that may need reinforcement or expansion during this period of recovery. New demands on the student meals and Women, Infant, and Children programs are likely to be encountered both in terms of the number of persons requiring feeding and also because of damage to facilities for program administration and for food storage, preparation, and delivery. The Food and Nutrition Service may need to consider providing greater latitude in regulation of food assistance and, possibly, supplemental funding for these purposes as well as for NAP.

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I know that I can rely on you, Administrator Rowe, Mr. Mendoza, and all your staff to work with me to assure that the people I represent will have the food they need in the aftermath of Typhoon Soudelor.

Thank you, again, for all your help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'G. Kilili'.

GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
Member of Congress

cc: Mr. Jesus Mendoza, Jr.